Exploitation of workers by Jute Mills

2610. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jute workers were intended to be benefited when Government enacted J.P.M.A. in 1987;

(b) if so, whether the workers have been paid all their dues such as P.F., E.S.I., etc., since 1987 to date;

(c) if not, the action taken against the defaulting Jute Mills owners to stop exploitation by them;

(d) whether it is a fact that strike has been called by Trade Unions from January, 2002 to stop this exploitation; and

(e) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) was enacted in the interests of production of raw Jute and Jute Packaging Material and of persons engaged in the production thereof and for matters connected therewith.

(b) and (c) It is reported that some of the jute mills are in default in depositing Provident Fund dues. Various recovery actions as prescribed under the Employees Provident Fund Act have been taken and the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has been able to recover an amount of Rs.48.07 crores during the last 3 years and a sum of Rs.183.11 crores are outstanding till date. The benefits payable under the ESI scheme governed by the ESI Act, 1948 are paid by ESI Corporation during the contingencies of sickness, disablement and maternity as per ESI Act and Rules made thereunder.

(d) and (e) A strike in Jute Mills in West Bengal was called by the Trade Unions from 7th January, 2002, but following a tripartite agreement, only one day token strike in a few mills took place on 07.01.2002.